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BATMAN



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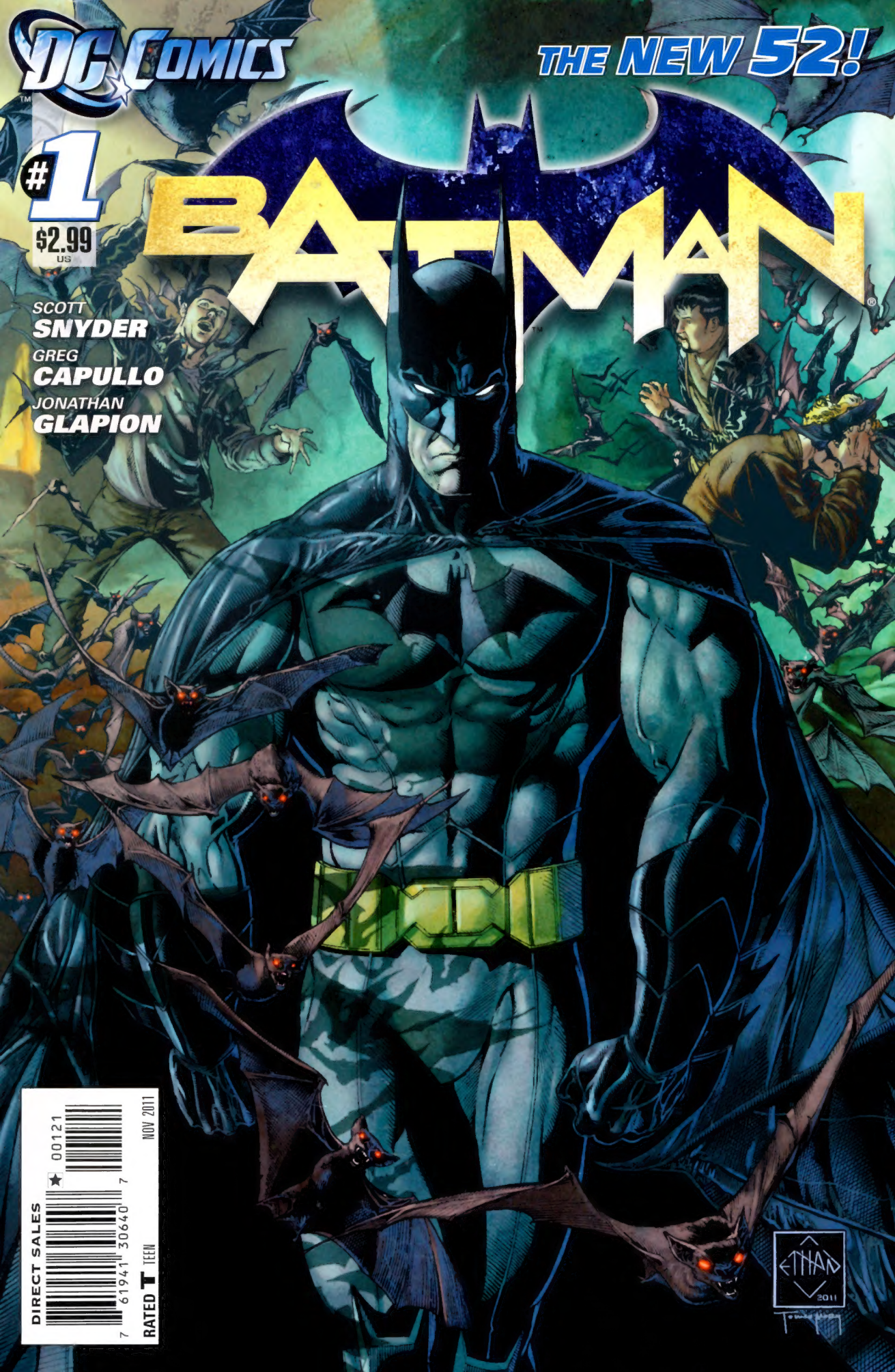
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AUG 2012

Every Saturday, the Gotham Gazette includes a small life-styles piece called "Gotham Is."

In the column, random Gothamites are asked to complete the sentence "Gotham is..." using three words or less.

The Gazette has been running the "Gotham Is" column for years, ever since I was a boy.

Here are some of the words used to describe Gotham the past few weeks:

"Damned."

"Cursed."

"Bedlam."

"Murderous..."

DC COMICS
PROUDLY PRESENTS

BATMAN

IN:

KNIFE TRICK

Gotham is
"villainous."

Gotham is
"a losing game."

Gotham is
"hopeless."

YOU'RE
ALL OURS,
NOW.

NO
WAY OUT,
BATS.

Prof

→SIGH→
THERE'S NO
PLACE LIKE
HOME.

SCOTT GREG
SNYDER CAPULLO
WRITER PENCILLER & COVER


JONATHAN GLAPION
INKER

FEO PLASCENCIA
COLORS

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S
JIMMY BETANCOURT LETTERS

KATIE KUBERT | JANELLE ASSELIN | MIKE MARTS
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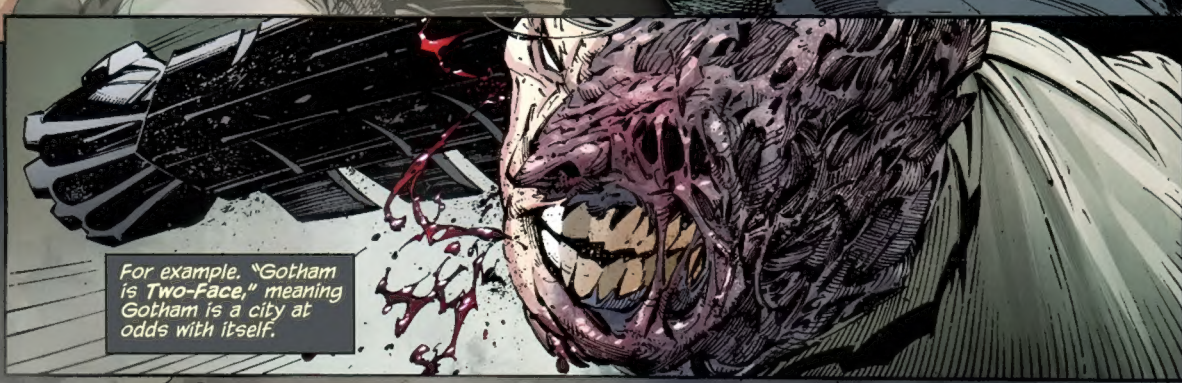
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE



Once in a while, someone names one of the city's villains as their answer to the "Gotham Is" question.

Usually it's some kid, a teenager going for shock value.


But now and then someone actually tries to make the argument that the city is best reflected in its villains.



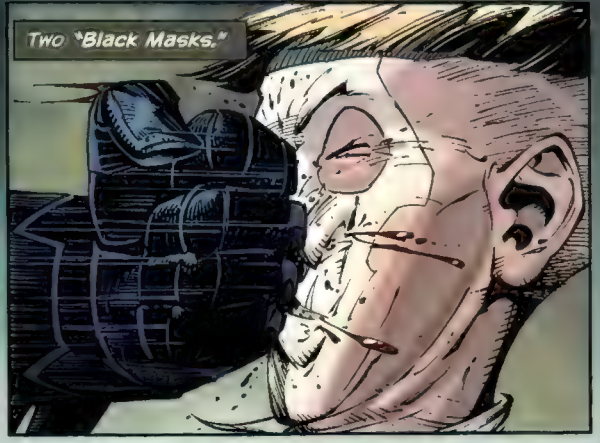
For example, "Gotham is Two-Face," meaning Gotham is a city at odds with itself.



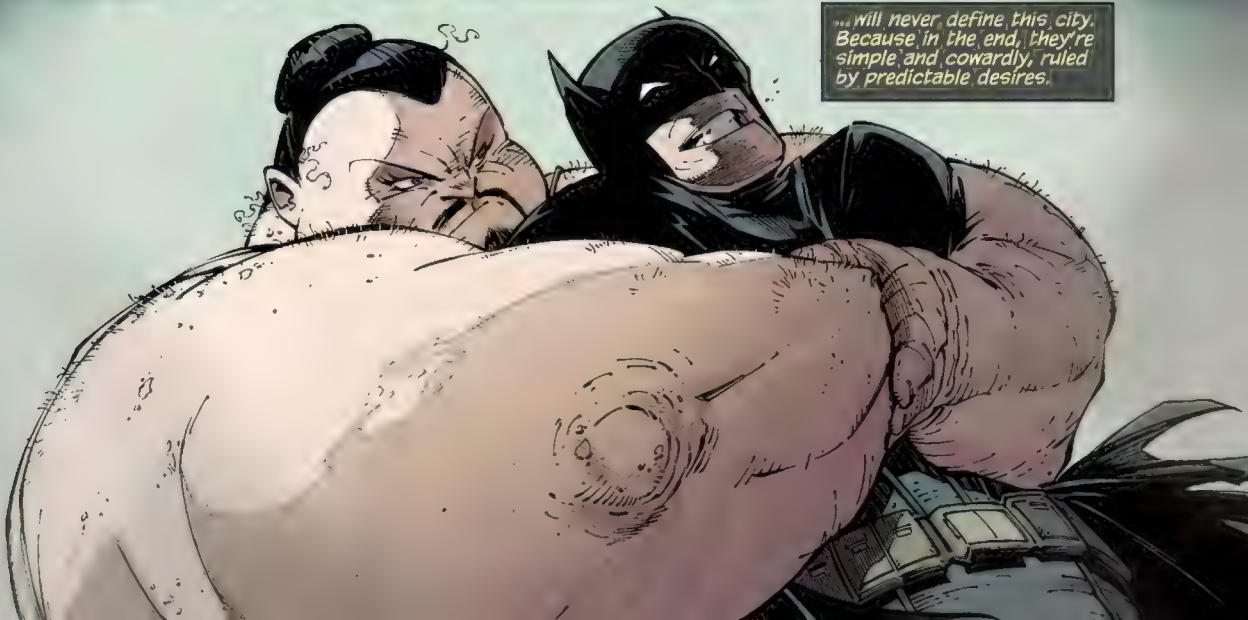
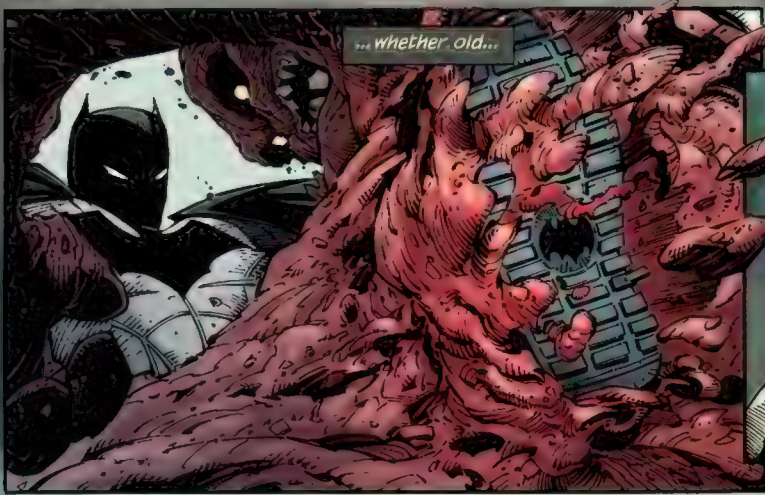
Or "Gotham is Killer Croc."



Meaning the city is little more than a cannibalistic monster.



Lately I've seen a couple
new names appear, too.



Granted, now and then, one of them will do something that catches even me off-guard...

I WAS HERE
twice

...something particularly depraved...

...or twisted...

THERE YOU ARE!

AND HERE I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WERE GOING TO DIE WITHOUT EVEN SAYING GOODBYE!

YOU READY TO DO THIS?

AW, ALWAYS SO SERIOUS.
FINE, THEN...



...LET'S
CUT TO THE
PUNCH LINE!

JOKER? WHAT
ARE YOU DOING,
YOU TURNCOAT
PIECE OF--



BEHIND
YOU!

GOT
HIM.



Of course,
one of the
most common
answers to
the "Gotham
is" question
is "Batman."

"Gotham is 'Batman.'"



"Gotham is
'Batman's city.'"

"Gotham is
'the Bat...'"

All answers I'm
partial to, myself.

Still, I like to think a vote for Batman is a broader affirmation—a vote for all of Gotham's heroes.

A vote for the G.C.P.D.

Honest, tireless men like Commissioner Jim Gordon.



I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. A FULL-SCALE BREAKOUT? WITH NO WARNING?

IT WASN'T A BREAKOUT.

I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING A WEAK LINK AT **ARKHAM ASYLUM**. A GUARD NAMED MATTHEWS. I WAS COMING FOR HIM.

HE SPRANG THE DOORS TO STOP ME.

NOT **DAN** MATTHEWS? HE'S ONE OF THE BEST MEN ON PAYROLL THERE... I'VE KNOWN HIM SINCE HE WAS AN ACADEMY BOY.

HE'S GOT A FATHER WITH HEALTH PROBLEMS. A DIVORCE LOOMING.

HE AND BELLE ARE GETTING DIVORCED?

I HAD NO IDEA.

NEITHER DOES SHE.

GEEZ. WHO'S THE NEW PAL?

COCKTAIL WAITRESS. ICEBERG LOUNGE. IMPRESSIVE SHEET OF HER OWN.



AND YOU FOUND HIM OUT *HOW*? YOU HAD A MAN ON THE INSIDE?



SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

DAN MATTHEWS ON THE TAKE AT ARKHAM...

...THERE'S NOBODY THE SCUM OF GOTHAM CAN'T GET TO, IS THERE?



I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.



ONE MORE THING. ON THE CC FOOTAGE, IT ALMOST LOOKS YOU'RE FIGHTING *ALONGSIDE* THE JOKER.

TELL ME THAT'D BE RIDICULOUS.

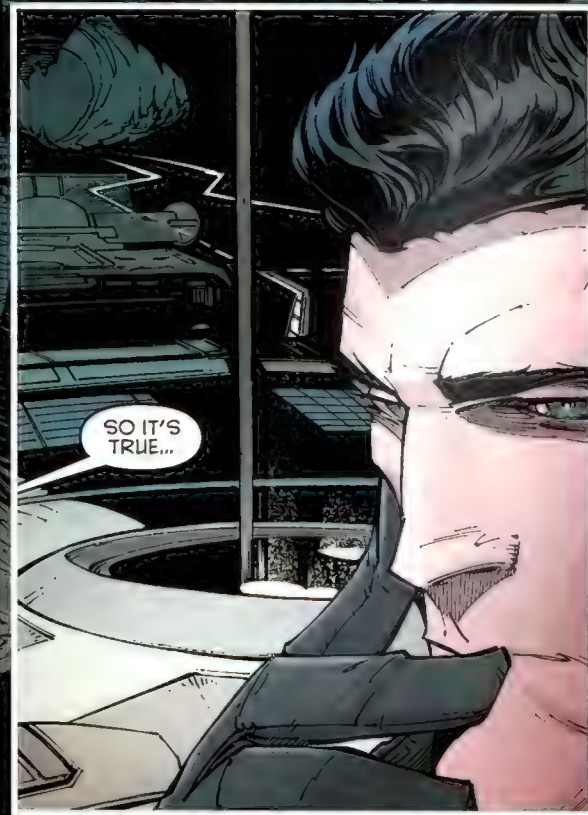


THAT'D BE RIDICULOUS, JIM.



THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED...

...JUST A SIMPLE TRICK OF THE LIGHT.





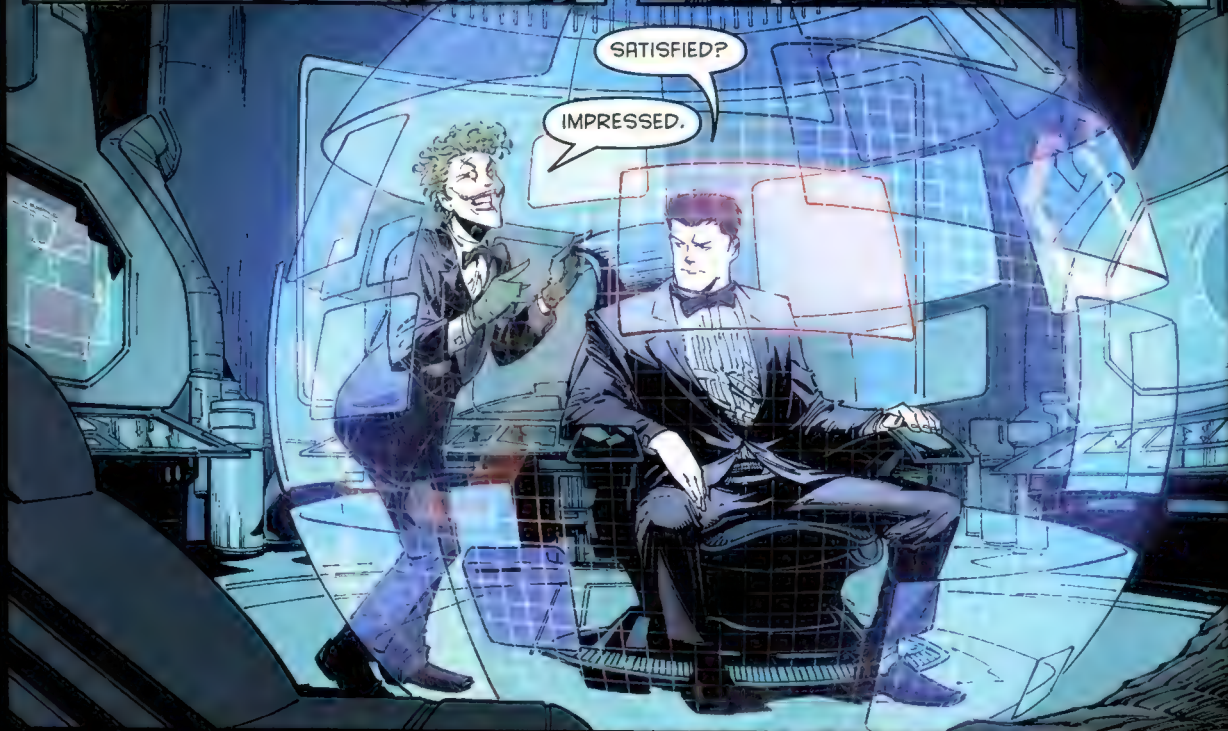
...YOU DO
ACTUALLY PRACTICE
BROODING.

I ALWAYS
SUSPECTED.

I'M
WORKING.



WITH THE
COMPUTER
OFF.



SATISFIED?

IMPRESSED.



IT'S A NEW
SYSTEM I'M
TESTING.




A CONTACT
LENS WITH A REMOTE
ACCESS PROCESSOR
LINKED TO THE
COMPUTER DOWN
HERE.



AND
DICK...

....TAKE
OFF THE E.M.P.
MASK.




BELIEVE ME, I'VE BEEN DYING TO. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU DISCONNECTED IT FROM THE MAIN-FRAME FIRST.



SO...A CONTACT LENS WITH REMOTE ACCESS?




MEANING, ANYWHERE YOU GO, THE BATCAVE GOES WITH YOU?



NOW THAT SOUNDS HEALTHY.

WE SHOULD GO.

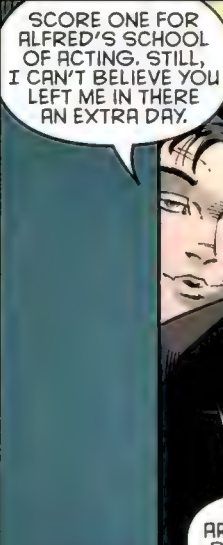


FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, HOW'D I DO AS HIM?

ARE YOU ASKING ME IF YOU WERE CONVINCING AS A HOMICIDAL MANIAC, DICK?

I SUPPOSE I AM.

THEN YES, AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOU WERE.



SCORE ONE FOR ALFRED'S SCHOOL OF ACTING. STILL, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LEFT ME IN THERE AN EXTRA DAY.

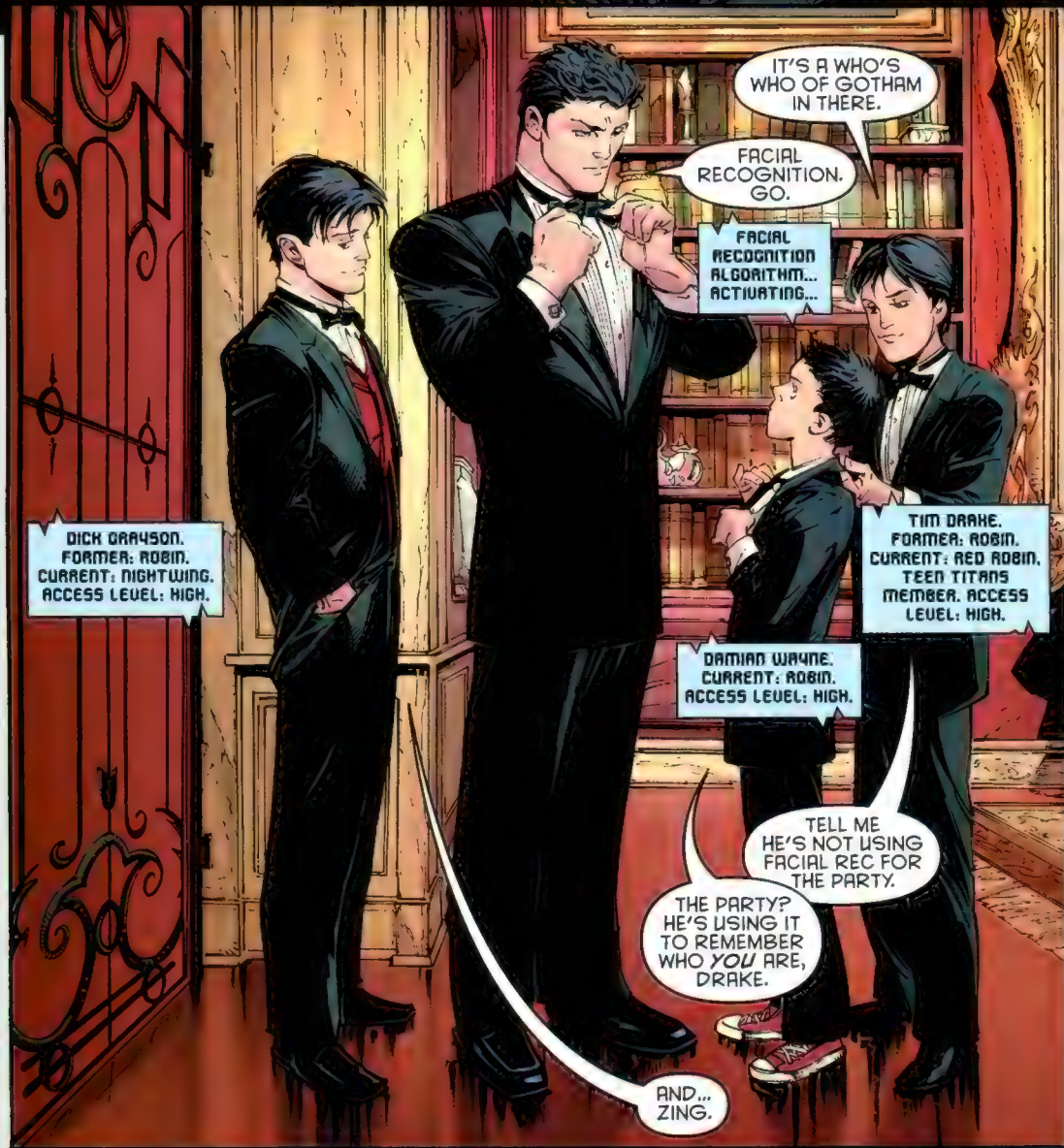
I NEEDED TO BE SURE IT WAS MATTHEWS.

BESIDES, WITH ALL YOU'VE BEEN SHOULDERING LATELY, I FIGURED YOU COULD USE THE DAY OFF.

A DAY OFF. IN ARKHAM. ONLY YOU, BRUCE... ONLY YOU.



FINALLY.



DICK GRAYSON.
FORMER: ROBIN.
CURRENT: NIGHTWING.
ACCESS LEVEL: HIGH.

FACIAL
RECOGNITION.
GO.

FACIAL
RECOGNITION
ALGORITHM...
ACTUATING...

IT'S A WHO'S
WHO OF GOTHAM
IN THERE.

TIM DRAKE.
FORMER: ROBIN.
CURRENT: RED ROBIN.
TEEN TITANS
MEMBER. ACCESS
LEVEL: HIGH.

DAMIEN WAYNE.
CURRENT: ROBIN.
ACCESS LEVEL: HIGH.

TELL ME
HE'S NOT USING
FACIAL REC FOR
THE PARTY.

THE PARTY?
HE'S USING IT
TO REMEMBER
WHO YOU ARE,
DRAKE.

AND...
ZING.



RUN
DIAGNOSTIC...

AND YOU
CALL YOURSELF
A DETECTIVE.

Lately, I've been
asking myself
the "Gotham is"
question a lot...



...WHAT IS
GOTHAM CITY TO
ME, **BRUCE WAYNE**?
IN A SINGLE
WORD...

HOMEP
FAMILY?

PURPOSE?

BUT THE TRUTH--
THE **REAL TRUTH**--IS...
I COULDN'T ANSWER
THE QUESTION.

BUT THEN I REMEMBERED
SOMETHING, FRIENDS. I REMEMBERED
SOMETHING MY FATHER, THOMAS WAYNE,
USED TO SAY TO ME BEFORE BED
SOMETIMES, BACK WHEN I WAS A BOY
AND I'D HAD A BAD DAY...

...WHEN I'D
FALLEN DOWN A HOLE
IN THE GROUND OR
SKINNED MY KNEE.

AT THE END OF A DAY
LIKE THAT HE'D PAT MY HEAD AND
HE'D SAY, "BRUCE, TOMORROW IS ONE
DREAM AWAY." THAT WAS HIS PHRASE.
SENTIMENTAL, I KNOW. BUT STILL,
IT WORKED FOR ME.

NOW, AS MOST OF
YOU KNOW, MY FATHER DIED
WHEN I WAS JUST A BOY. HE WAS
GUNNED DOWN, ALONG WITH MY
MOTHER IN **CRIME ALLEY**
ACROSS TOWN.



AND AS YOU
CAN IMAGINE, THE
DAYS FOLLOWING HIS
DEATH WERE THE WORST
OF MY LIFE. DAYS OF
ANGER AND FEAR AND
SADNESS. STILL, THAT
PHRASE, MY FATHER'S
PHRASE--TOMORROW IS
JUST A DREAM AWAY--
IT KEPT COMING
BACK TO ME...



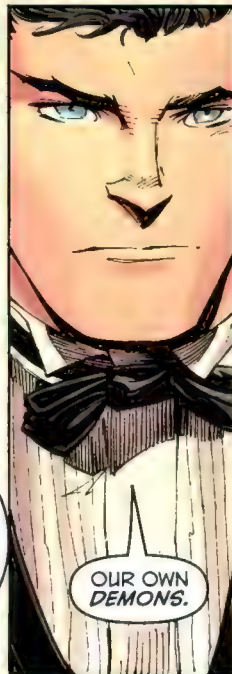
...AND DEEP
DOWN I KNEW,
MUCH AS IT HURT
RIGHT THEN,
THINGS
WOULD GET
BETTER.



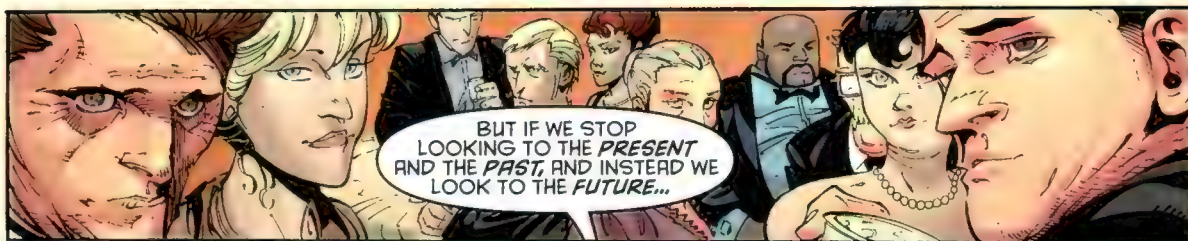
NOW, WHY AM I
TELLING YOU THIS?
WELL, FRIENDS, MY
POINT IS THIS--WHEN
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE
CHALLENGING, OR
FRIGHTENING, ASKING
OURSELVES WHAT
OUR CITY "IS" IS
POINTLESS.



BECAUSE ALL
WE WILL SEE, WHEN
WE LOOK AROUND
AT THE BUILDINGS
AND STREETS, WILL
BE OUR **OWN**
FEARS, OUR OWN
FRUSTRATIONS.



OUR OWN
DEMONS.



BUT IF WE STOP
LOOKING TO THE **PRESENT**
AND THE **PAST**, AND INSTEAD WE
LOOK TO THE **FUTURE**...

...IF WE ASK OURSELVES WHAT CAN BE--WHAT **WILL** BE--TOMORROW... THEN WE'RE ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTION. BECAUSE TO HOPE, TO DREAM, TO PREDICT IS TO **SHAPE** THE CITY YOURSELF, RATHER THAN TO BE SHAPED **BY** IT.

SO, PUTTING MY MONEY WHERE MY MOUTH IS...

...NEXT MONTH, WAYNE ENTERPRISES WILL BEGIN INVESTING--AGGRESSIVELY AND IMMEDIATELY--IN **GOTHAM'S FUTURE.**

WORKING WITH VARIOUS DOMESTIC DESIGN FIRMS, WE'VE ALREADY SET IN MOTION AN INITIATIVE TO REBUILD SOME OF GOTHAM'S MOST DERELICT INDUSTRIAL NEIGHBORHOODS. FROM THERE, WE PLAN ON MOVING BOLDLY TO EXPAND AND MODERNIZE GOTHAM'S PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM.

I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW EXCITED, HOW **HOPEFUL** I AM ABOUT THESE PLANS. MUCH MORE WILL BE REVEALED IN THE COMING DAYS, BUT FOR NOW, I ASK YOU TO DO THIS...

LOOK PAST WHAT GOTHAM WAS, WHAT GOTHAM IS...AND IMAGINE WITH ME, JUST FOR A MOMENT...

...GOTHAM AS IT **WILL** BE...

=GASP!=-



THANK YOU... NOW WHAT I ASK OF YOU, FRIENDS, IS TO INVEST WITH ME. INVEST IN GOTHAM'S FUTURE. BECAUSE I PROMISE YOU, IF WE CAN ALL DO THAT, TOGETHER...

CLAP!
CLAP!

BRAVO!
BRAVO!



ALFRED
PENNYWORTH.
CARETAKER.
WAYNE ESTATE.
ACCESS LEVEL:
HIGHEST.

WELL DONE,
MASTER BRUCE.
INSPIRING.
THOROUGH...

THANK YOU,
ALFRED.



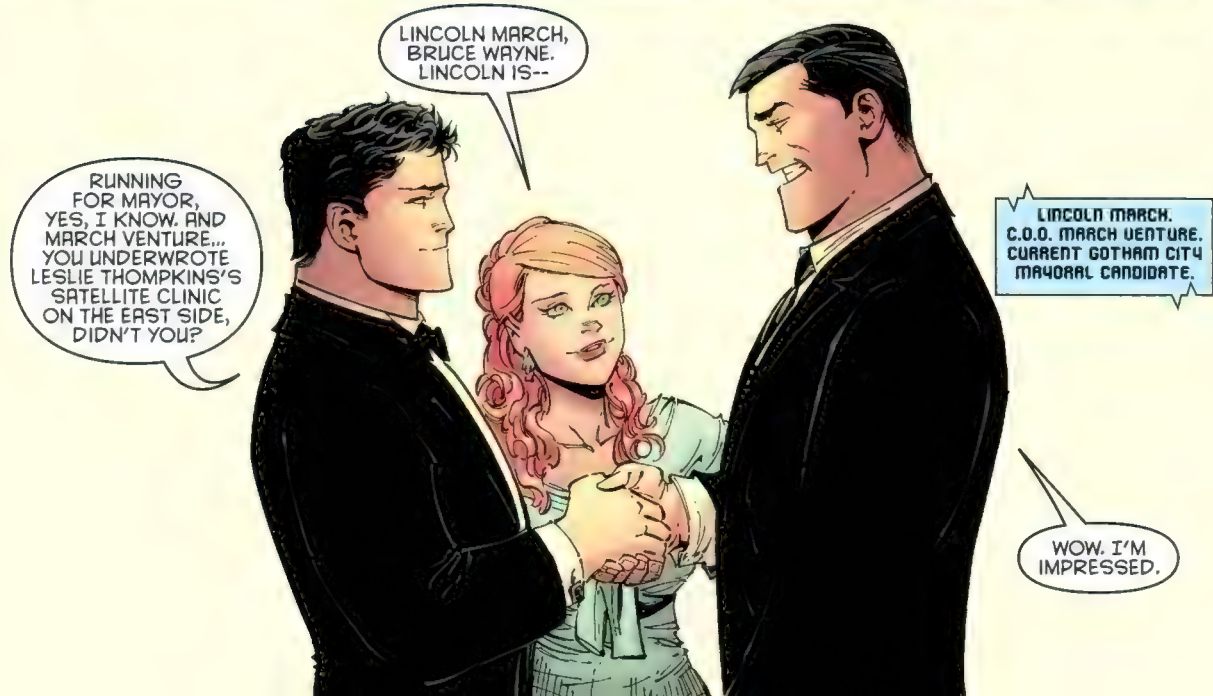
THOUGH YOU *DID*
FAIL TO MENTION
THE MYRIAD OF NEW
BAT-BUNKERS
YOU'LL BE BUILDING
THROUGHOUT
THE CITY.

HUH. MUST
HAVE SLIPPED
MY MIND. NEXT
PRESENTATION
MAYBE.

VICKI VALE. REPORTER FOR
THE GOTHAM GAZETTE.

BRUCE/
THERE YOU
ARE.

SO FIRST YOU FUND
THE DIGITIZING OF THE
GAZETTE, NOW YOU'RE REBUILDING
HALF THE CITY... I'D SAY YOU WERE
GOTHAM'S OWN *MAN OF TOMORROW*,
THAT IS, IF I WASN'T ALREADY
SAYING *HE* IS.

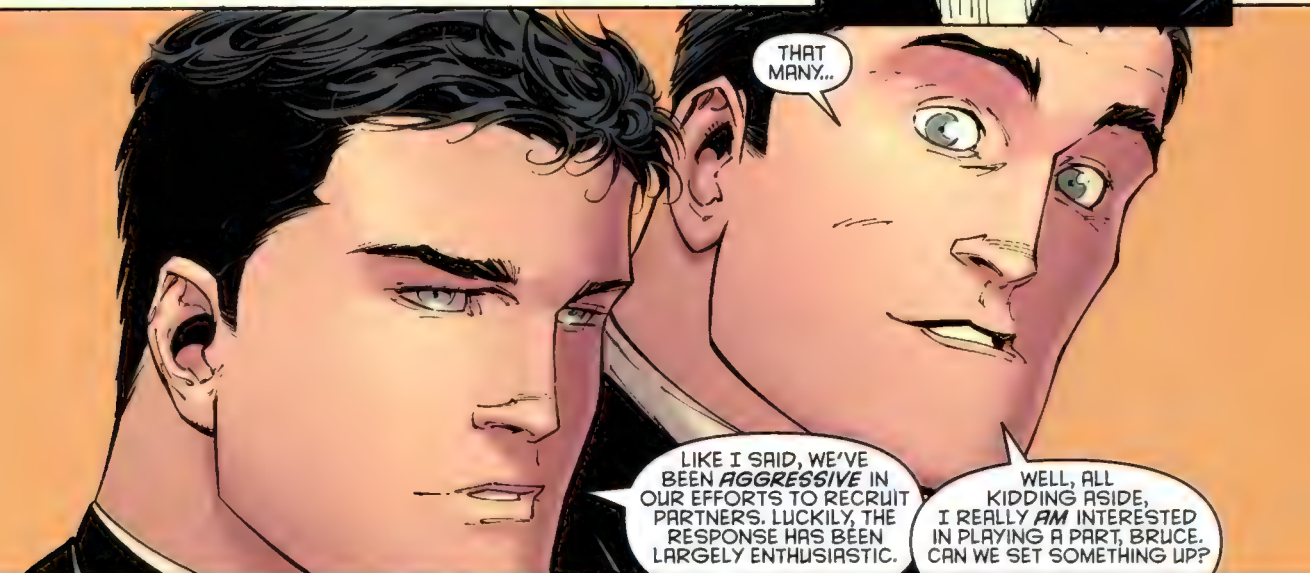


LINCOLN MARCH,
BRUCE WAYNE.
LINCOLN IS--

RUNNING
FOR MAYOR,
YES, I KNOW. AND
MARCH VENTURE...
YOU UNDERWROTE
LESLIE THOMPSON'S
SATELLITE CLINIC
ON THE EAST SIDE,
DIDN'T YOU?

LINCOLN MARCH.
C.O.O. MARCH VENTURE.
CURRENT GOTHAM CITY
MAYORAL CANDIDATE.

WOW. I'M
IMPRESSED.





⇒COUGH-COUGH⇒
(LIP READ GO).

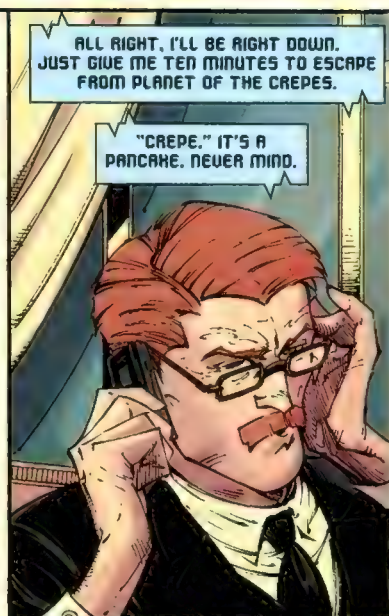
I'M
SORRY.
GO ON.



LIP READ
ACTUATING...
OCULAR
TARGETING TO...

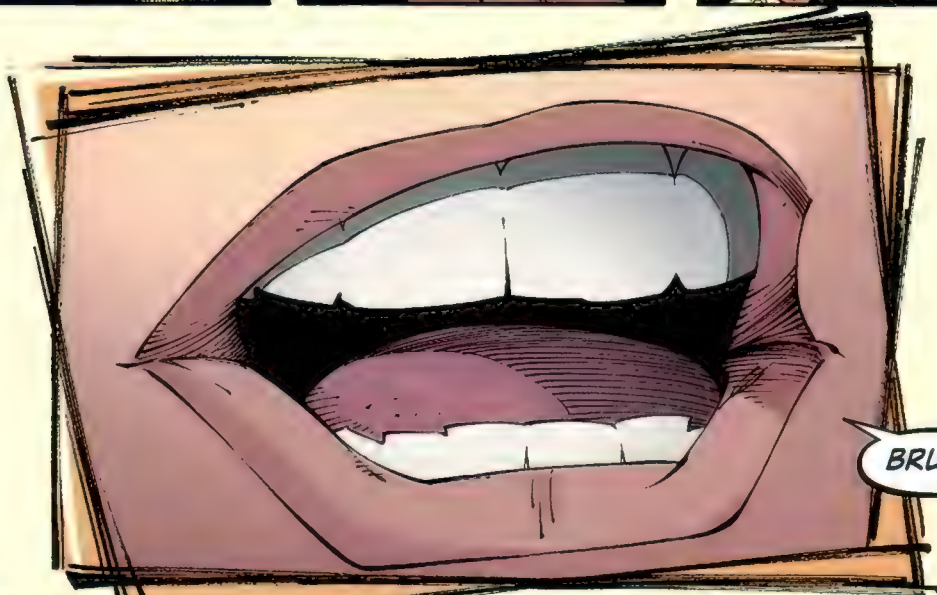
I WAS JUST
SAYING I'M
ENTHUSIASTIC
TO...

HOW MANY STAB
WOUNDS? GOD.



ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE RIGHT DOWN.
JUST GIVE ME TEN MINUTES TO ESCAPE
FROM PLANET OF THE CREPES.

"CREPE." IT'S A
PANCAKE. NEVER MIND.

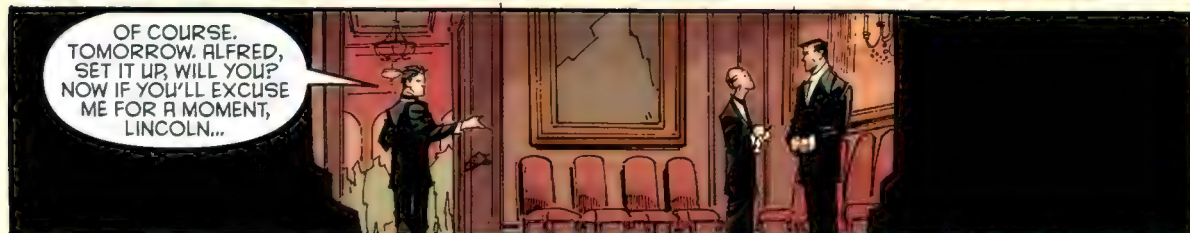


BRUCE?



I'M
SORRY,
WHAT?

I WAS
SAYING I COULD
DO AS EARLY
AS TOMORROW.
LUNCH? TALK
ABOUT YOUR
PLANS?



OF COURSE.
TOMORROW. ALFRED,
SET IT UP, WILL YOU?
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE
ME FOR A MOMENT,
LINCOLN...

“...I NEED TO
GET SOME AIR.”



NO, YOU
RANK STOOGES,
PROP THE WEATHER
TARP FIRST!



RAINDROPS.
EVIDENCE. NO
MATCH.

GEEZ,
THEY GROW
THEM STUPID
NOWADAYS.



HELLO,
HARVEY.

BACK
TO STEALTH
MODE, I
SEE.

COME
ON. LET'S
GO LOOK
AT SOME
ART.

THE
LANDLORD
FOUND HIM
ON A ROUTINE
RENT RUN.

HE WENT BY THE NAME
SAM STRIGGS, BUT WHEN WE
RAN IT, TURNED OUT TO BE A PHONY.
GUY HAS NO CREDIBLE I.D. IN THE
APARTMENT. NOTHING ON HIS PRINTS.
HE PAID EVERYTHING IN CASH. A
TRUE BLUE **JOHN DOE**.

EVIDENCE POINTS
TO A T.O.D. FIVE, MAYBE SIX
DAYS AGO. WHEN SOMEONE
DECIDED TO USE HIM AS A
HUMAN DART BOARD.

THING IS,
WHOEVER DID IT
MISSED EVERY ONE OF
JOHN DOE'S MAJOR
ARTERIES--ON
PURPOSE.

MEANING THEY
WANTED TO HURT HIM
VERY BADLY, FOR A
LONG, LONG TIME.

THE
POTSTICKERS
ARE---

ANTIQUE
THROWING KNIVES,
PROFESSIONAL GRADE.
THE GROOVES ARE FILLED
WITH MERCURY FOR
STEADIER FLIGHT.

I'D LIKE
TO TAKE
ONE.

HELL, IT'S
NOT LIKE WE'RE
GOING TO
RUN OUT.

MAKE
ANYTHING
OF THE
SYMBOL?

IT'S AN
OWL.

HAR
HAR. I MEANT,
DO YOU THINK IT
HAS ANYTHING
TO DO WITH THE
OLD WIFE'S TALE
ABOUT THE
C--

I KNOW
WHAT YOU
MEANT.

RUN DNA
ANALYSIS. LOOKS
LIKE **SKIN** BENEATH THE
VICTIM'S FINGERNAILS,
POSSIBLY THE KILLER'S.

RUNNING
AMPFLP NOW.

SNIFF
SNIFF



WHAT?
WHAT IS
IT?

GIVE
ME YOUR
CIGAR.

MY
CIGAR?



THAT SMELL
IS LINSEED OIL.
A COMMON PAINT
THINNER.

BUT THE
INTENSITY IS TOO
STRONG.



SO OUR GUY
SPILLED A CAN OF
PAINT THINNER.
SO WHAT?

MAYBE...



...OR MAYBE HE WAS USING IT TO LEAVE A LAST MESSAGE, A WARNING, BEFORE HE WAS MURDERED.

WELL, OUR JOHN DOE WASN'T ANY NOSTRADAMUS, THAT'S FOR SURE.

I'M JUST SAYING, IF OUR TIME OF DEATH FOR HIM WAS A WEEK AGO, THE "TOMORROW" HE THOUGHT WOULD BE WAYNE'S LAST DAY ALREADY CAME AND WENT. SO WAYNE'S IN THE CLEAR.

UNLESS JOHN DOE *KNEW* WHEN HE'D BE FOUND. YOU SAID THE LANDLORD WAS MAKING A ROUTINE RUN. I ASSUME HE--

ALWAYS CAME ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH...SO IT'S POSSIBLE OUR VICTIM *KNEW* HE WAS GOING TO DIE, KNEW HE WAS GOING TO BE FOUND TODAY, AND SO LEFT A WARNING THAT WHOEVER KILLED HIM WOULD BE COMING AFTER WAYNE NEXT.

THEN TO THE KILLER I SAY GOOD LUCK. WAYNE'S SECURITY HAS SECURITY.

ANYONE GOING TO TAKE A CRACK AT THE GUY IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE SOMEONE *CLOSE*. SOMEONE IN WAYNE'S CIRCLE, WOULD BE MY GUESS.

MAKES YOU ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR THE GUY.

ALMOST?

I KNOW YOU AND WAYNE ARE PALS AND ALL THAT. BUT GUYS LIKE WAYNE, THEY DON'T GET HOW THE CITY WORKS THE WAY *WE* DO.

I MEAN, I LISTENED TO HIS SPEECH TONIGHT ON THE RADIO. ALL ABOUT WHAT GOTHAM "IS" AND "WAS" AND "WILL BE."



WHEN
IT COMES
TO GOTHAM,
THOUGH--
QUIET.

YOU'RE
SURE.

QUITE,
SIR. THE SKIN
CELLS BENEATH
THE VICTIM'S
FINGERNAILS
CAME BACK
A PERFECT
MATCH...

LOOK, I
DIDN'T MEAN TO
KNOCK YOUR
BOY WAYNE. I'M
JUST SAYING...

"...MY VIEW IS, WHEN IT COMES TO
GOTHAM, YOU DON'T KNOW IT,
BROTHER. IT KNOWS *YOU*."

"AND THE MOMENT YOU THINK
OTHERWISE, THE MOMENT YOU
GET TOO COMFORTABLE..."

"...THAT'S WHEN IT STABS
YOU RIGHT IN THE *BACK*."

DNA Match: Dick Grayson

"BECAUSE ABOVE EVERYTHING,
GOTHAM IS... A *MYSTERY*."

NEXT:
TRUST FALL



RED HOOD AND THE OUTLAWS

SCOTT LOBDELL (writer)
KENNETH ROCAFORT (artist)

1. What do you love about writing/drawing this character?

Scott: I love how joyful RED HOOD & THE OUTLAWS feels to me. Yeah, all three of them come from a dark place—Jason came back from the dead, Roy from addiction and Kori from a childhood spent in slavery—but there is something about the three of them coming together that allows them to look at life through different sets of eyes. They're better for the experience of knowing each other. There is a lot of action and bloodshed and violence in the story, but at its heart, it's a story of redemption.

Kenneth: Red Hood is pure action mixed with dramatic life events. Jason also has a lot of attitude, and now the mask doesn't conceal his emotions.

2. What is your favorite thing about your part in the new 52?

Scott: The trust that DC has placed in me to help sharpen the focus on or, in some cases, redefine some of these characters.

Kenneth: ...making history!

3. Can you tease the villains he will be fighting? What villains would you like to draw?

Kenneth: New ones, which all of you will see soon.

Scott: I will say there has never been—and may never be again—a super-villain like Suzie Su. She is without peer. Seriously, no offense to everyone else, but Kenneth Rocafort has designed The Villain for the 52!

4. What new thing are you doing with this character?

Kenneth: Adding more body language, expressions and an extreme sense of coldness in battle.

Scott: I am moving Jason away from being so obsessed with Batman. The "B" word is brought up only twice in the first six issues, neither time by Jason. He's moving on, and I'm happy to be moving on with him!

5. How will you shock readers?

Kenneth: With a visual atmosphere that fuses with and complements Scott's writing.

Scott: I think Jason himself is going to become genuinely shocked that he comes to care for Roy and Kori as the stories progress. He hasn't had a lot of experience with friendships, so this is all pretty new to him.

5.2 What is your favorite page in this first issue and why?

Scott: Kori stepping out of the ocean, just basking in the sunshine. I love the joy on her face. The people of this planet may not want her here... but God, how she loves this place.

Kenneth: I like them all and can't choose!



BLUE BEETLE

TONY BEDARD (writer)
IG GUARA (artist)

1. What do you love about writing or drawing these characters?

Tony: Jaime Reyes is funny and imperfect and realistic. Plus, as a Puerto Rican who grew up in the States I relate very directly to him culturally. And I adore writing science fiction, so it's basically a dream job.

Ig: It's a dream come true for me to work on this! Beetle is a character with a LOT of potential for great action and stories. The scripts are amazing too, I feel that I can REALLY connect with the characters.

2. What is your favorite thing about your part in the new 52?

Ig: Besides drawing one of my favorite characters? Being part of a really bold move by DC—something that can change the way we see comics!

Tony: I get to launch two very different new series—GREEN LANTERN: NEW GUARDIANS, and BLUE BEETLE. It's like starring in a summer blockbuster and a really cool indie film at the same time!

3. Can you tease the villains they will be fighting?

Tony: Early on Beetle faces the Brotherhood of Evil, and he'll also run afoul of the Green Lantern Corps!

Ig: There will also be a villain more attached to Jaime's life and city—a vicious and beautiful mob boss!!

4. What new things are you doing with these characters?

Tony: Since we get to retell his origin in September, this time around Jaime will have a much harder time controlling the armor, and he won't get to tell everyone close to him his big secret.

Ig: The only thing I didn't change was Beetle's design—the original one is so modern and awesome. But you will be amazed by what he can do in the new series—trust me on that!

5 How will you shock readers?

Ig: By making the action really fast and explosive and the emotional moments as real as possible. This book is way more than people think.

Tony: I think readers will be shocked by how great an artist Ig Guara is! We've also got a few crazy twists in the opening issues, but if you want shock, DO NOT miss BLUE BEETLE #4!

5.2 What is your favorite page in this first issue and why?

Tony: I think it's the splash page where we finally see Jaime in the Blue Beetle armor for the first time.

Ig: Jaime, Paco and Brenda's first appearance—we find out they are just normal people, and you really feel their friendship, despite their differences.



0ne of the highlights of being a comic book editor or (in my case) art director is getting to work with some of the most talented writers and artists in the world. But you have to be careful: you should never play favorites or say that you like "this" artist's work more than "that" artist's work. That's just unprofessional.

With that in mind, I'm NOT going to say how awesome Cliff Chiang's artwork is. I'm also NOT going to tell you how he and writer Brian Azzarello are crafting the new Wonder Woman series into one of my absolute favorites of the "NEW 52."

I won't say any of that, but rather I'll let you decide for yourself that I'm absolutely right and that Cliff Chiang's art is just astounding.

Mark Chiarello
VP, Art and Design Director

Next... Bob Harras

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